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Eleele Store

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Steel shod anvil brand means "made to wear." Prices, in sizes 9 to 11, \$2.25 to \$2.50; in sizes 11 1/2 to 2, \$2.50 to \$3.00.

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J. CARLO : : : Honolulu

Kauai's Young People The Flood of Waters

In those very early times people they knew that it was the only safe place for them. The lions did not quarrel with the tigers, and the sheep were not afraid of the wolves; but each one took the place that had been set apart for it in the ark, and all were as peaceable and kind as though they were members of the same happy family. When the last of these creatures had been safely housed, Noah and his three sons and their wives, eight persons in all, went up into the ark, and the door was shut behind them.

You would think that people were very happy in those days, but they were not. They were quarreling and fighting among themselves almost all the time. Those who were powerful and strong oppressed those who were feeble and weak. The rich robbed the poor. Strange cruel men called giants roamed here and there, filling the world with terror. There was no peace or safety anywhere, but only distress and fear and dreadful wickedness. It seemed as if it would have been better had the earth never been made.

In the midst of all this wickedness there was only one man who was good and true. The name of this man was Noah, which, in the language of that ancient time, meant Comfort. Why he was called by that name I do not know; but perhaps it was because his ways were so cheery and pleasant, and his heart so kind and pure. He often told his neighbors how wrong it was to do as they were doing, and he warned them that if they did not change their ways some great disaster would surely befall them. But they only laughed at him, and then kept on in their wickedness as before.

At last, when Noah was five hundred years old, he began to do a thing at which everybody wondered. He and his three sons set to work felling trees in the woods; and when they had cut a great deal of timber, they hauled it into one place, and began to shape the logs into posts and beams and rafter and planks. The neighbors came and looked on while the men worked, and then they jeered at them.

"What are you doing?" they asked.

"We are building a boat," said the good man quietly.

"Ha, ha!" laughed his neighbors. "Who ever did so foolish a thing as to build a boat on a hill-top a hundred miles from the sea? You have lost your senses."

"I have not lost my senses," was the answer. "The great God whom I worship is angry with you because of your wickedness, and he is going to send a great flood of water upon you to destroy you from the earth. It was he that bade me build this boat, or ark, that so I and my family may be saved alive; and you too, may be saved if you will only turn about and live as you ought, and help me in this work."

But they laughed and jeered all the more, and instead of helping they tried to hinder him.

It took the good man and his sons a long time to finish the boat, a hundred years, or nearly so. It was a huge vessel, five hundred feet long and eighty feet broad. It was three stories high, with one door, and one window in the side, and the whole was covered with a roof. When at last it was all ready, and made water-tight without a nail within they began to store it with food. They put into it not only provisions for themselves, but a great supply of hay and grain, and roots and fruit, and eatables of every sort. Then they went out into the woods and fields and brought together all wild and tame animals, that could be found,—beasts and fowls and creeping things, two of every kind that lived on the earth. It was a strange sight to see these creatures marching up the hill, and going quietly into the great boat, as if

they knew that it was the only safe place for them. The lions did not quarrel with the tigers, and the sheep were not afraid of the wolves; but each one took the place that had been set apart for it in the ark, and all were as peaceable and kind as though they were members of the same happy family. When the last of these creatures had been safely housed, Noah and his three sons and their wives, eight persons in all, went up into the ark, and the door was shut behind them.

Then the rain began to fall in torrents, and the fountains of the great deep were broken up. For forty days and forty nights the rain went on without stopping, and the sea was filled to overflowing, and the water covered the land until even the tops of the mountains were hidden by it. All the people of the land were drowned, and all the cattle and wild beasts and creeping things in field or wood were destroyed. But the great ark floated on the waters, and the eight good people and the living creatures that were housed within it were kept alive and safe.

For five long months the land was covered by the flood; and those who looked out of the window of the ark could see nothing but water, water everywhere. At last, however, there came a great wind which seemed to drive the waters away; and one day the ark settled on the top of a high mountain which men call Mount Ararat to this day. But still the waters sank very slowly, and the people in the ark dared not open the door, for there was no place for them to set their feet outside.

After forty days, Noah opened the window and let a raven fly out; for he wanted to see if the bird could live outside of the ark. The raven flew back and forth from one bare mountain crag to another, but it never came back. By and by Noah sent out a dove in the same way; but the dove could find nothing to eat, nor safe place in which to rest, and so at last returned to the ark.

A week later, however, when the people looked out of the window there was no water in sight. From the high place where the ark was lying they could see nothing but bare rocks and rugged peaks and mountain gorges. They did not know that the lower slopes were already green with grass, and that the trees were budding and blossoming as in the time of spring. But one morning they sent out the dove again and in the evening, she came back with an olive branch in her mouth.

"The waters have dried up, and the fields are beginning to appear," they said.

They staid yet another week in the ark, and then they sent out the dove for the third time. But she did not return again; for now all the fields were dry, and she could find plenty of food and a place to build her nest. But Noah was not yet ready to leave the ark.

"Wait a while," he said, "until the voice of God shall bid us go forth."

And so, for two months more, they staid in the great vessel, and knew nothing of what was going on in the woods and plains below them. But one day Noah and his sons lifted off the roof of the ark and looked around; and, at the same time, they seemed to hear a voice bidding them go forth and choose homes for themselves in the land which the great flood had made desolate. Then they opened wide the door of the ark, and all went out, and made their way down the steep mountain side to the green and pleasant plains below; and the beasts and the fowls and the creeping things went out also, two by two, and scattered hither and thither over the land. They had been in the ark just one

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year.

And when Noah and his family reached the foot of the mountain, and saw the meadows dotted with flowers, and the trees already laden with fruit, and the land lying smiling and fair before them, their hearts were filled with thankfulness. And they built an altar of stone, and worshipped the great God who had blessed them and kept them through so many perils. And while they worshipped, they heard a voice, saying—"I will not again curse the ground for man's sake. So long as the earth remains, seed-time and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night, shall not cease." Then, looking up, they saw a rainbow spanning the sky. "It is the bow of promise!" they cried.

After that, the three sons of Noah went out with their wives into the broad rich valleys that lie on either side of the great river Euphrates, and there they built themselves homes. And by and by many children were born to them, and grand children and great-grandchildren,—so many that the land was full again of busy people, just as it had been before the great flood. Then some of the people journeyed to the East, and built cities for themselves in the vast plains beyond the snowy mountains. Some went to the South, and found life easy under sunny skies, where the trees were always laden with fruit, and there was no need to toil, or, indeed, to take any thought for the morrow. Some went to the North, where the summers were short, and the winters long and cold; and they learned to hunt the wild beasts in the great woods, or to build rude boats and sail from place to place along the shore of the sea. Some went to the West, and herded cattle and sheep in the green pasture lands that stretched away and away, even to the Great Sea and the borders of Arabia the

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Happy. And some crossed over into the rich country of the Nile, where the date palm flourished, and fruitful crops of grain were harvested almost every month in the year. But many still remained in the valley of the Euphrates. It was thus that the whole world was peopled once again.